(1) When was the work of the construction of a causeway and bridge between Ammatom and Perimplissery taken up;

(2) when was it programmed to be completed;

(3) was it completed;

(4) if not, the reasons for not completing it?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer).*—

(1) The actual work was started in 1110.

(2) It was proposed to be completed within 1½ years.

(3) All items except the decking of the bridge have been completed.

(4) The original contract had to be cancelled due to the laxity of the contractor. A new contractor has been entrusted with the work. It will be completed before June 1938.

Guest House—Ernakulam—construction of—tenders for.

280. Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*— Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(1) the names of contractors who tendered for the construction of the Guest House at Ernakulam as per the notification in the Cochin Government Gazette dated 2nd Makaram 1113;

(2) the periods during which they have been in the list of approved contractors;

(3) the rates at which they tendered;

(4) the names of those whose tenders were accepted with reasons for accepting them in case the tenders accepted were not of the lowest;

(5) the probable cost of each work?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer).*— Vide statement appended (*Appendix I.*)

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—Why should the Government call for tenders for these buildings separately? It is seen that they have divided the whole work into 5.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer).*—In the interests of expedition the work was divided into several portions, into 4 or 5 sections, and each one was entrusted with a separate contractor.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar (*Urakam*).—We find in giving out the contract the northern and southern block of buildings is given to one Mr. C. J. Luiz, a man who had been only 4 months in the approved list of contractors and who has not tendered for the southern block of buildings?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer).*—He was considered to be the most suitable person for handling the work in preference to the others.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—May I know whether Messrs. Brunton & Co., Narayanan Ezhuthassan, Inasu, Mani and Numberumal Chetty & Sons are not better experienced and approved contractors also?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer).*—I want notice.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—How did they consider Mr. Luiz the most suitable man in handling the works in view of the facts I have stated or seen from the answer given?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon (*Chief Engineer*).—He has considerable experience in building work. He has executed works in various places and his tender was very fair and therefore we entrusted the work.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—Are not the other contractors like Messrs. Brunton & Co., Inasu, Mahadeva Ayyar, Narayanan Ezhuthassan, Mani, Numberumal Chetty & Son, biggest contractors?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer).*—I have never heard that Messrs. Brunton & Company are building contractors?

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur South).*—Are not all these men in the approved list of contractors?

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar (*Urakam*).—Is not Mr. Inasu one of your best approved contractors, who has done excellent work in the State?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer).*—Yes.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—Why did you not give it to him since his tendered rate is 7½ per cent? Further if your idea was to split up the work and give each to one contractor, it would appear now that that was only your original idea.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer).*—Mr. Inasu has been given one part of the work so he cannot be given other parts according to our principle.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—May I know if Mr. Inasu is not in a position to advance the money to do the whole work?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer).*—In the best interests of expedition that this work should be finished soon we gave a signal portion of the work to Mr. Inasu.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur South).*—What about Numberumal Chetty? The tendered rate is also 7½ per cent.

Mr. President.—It is 7½ per cent above the estimated rate.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—Why was the work of the southern block for which Mr. Luiz had not even tendered was given to him even when there were persons whose tendered rate was 7½ per cent less? For instance Mr. Ezhuthassan has tendered 7½ per cent less. Is he not also one of the contractors who has done a lot of building work in the State? Is he not the gentleman who constructed the Diwan's House?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer).*—Even though we called for three tenders for the building work, we thought afterwards that if 3 contractors work together in three places there will be considerable confusion in the stocking of materials and so we decided that it should be given only to two contractors and that is the reason why we clubbed the northern and southern blocks together and gave it to one contractor.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—But the northern and southern blocks are on either side of the central block. So the three blocks are always separate. If the central and one of either the northern or southern blocks were given to one contractor it would be more convenient. So what I ask is why

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

was not the two adjacent blocks given to one and the same contractor?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*.—The estimate of the central block is about Rs. 55,000/- and the estimates of the other two blocks are smaller.

Mr. V. K. Krishnankutty *(Anthikad)*.—The idea of giving the northern and southern blocks to the same person arose only after getting the tenders?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*.—We thought it advantageous to give it to two contractors. If we had given it to three contractors it would have been much worse.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ *(Ezhuvas North)*.—എൻ. ഐ. ഇനാശ്ശു എന്ന പറയുന്ന ആൾ ടൗൺ ഹാൾ കൺട്രാക്ടർ തന്നെയാണോ?

Mr. V. K. Krishnankutty *(Anthikad)*.—Has Mr. C. J. Luiz done any building work in the Cochin State and has the Chief Engineer direct knowledge as to his capacities?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*.—I have direct knowledge. Moreover he has been favourably reported also.

Mr. V. K. Krishnankutty *(Anthikad)*.—Has he done any work in the Cochin State?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*.—I think he has done one or two works some ten years ago.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam)*.—What is his building experience? We are spending a large amount.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*.—I know that Mr. Luiz has done works in the Rubber and Tea Estates, works costing more than 3 or 4 lakhs of rupees and that within very short periods of eights or nine months.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur South)*.—Is there any official information regarding the experience of Mr. C. J. Luiz?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*.—What I say is official information. I have enquired into his antecedents and I have come to know that he could be safely entrusted with building works.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni (*Trichur South*).—Am I to understand that you make enquiries whether the work conld be entrusted to Mr. Luiz? There were several contractors in the approved list who has tendered for these works.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon (*Chief Engineer*).—When a contractor tenders for a work it is my duty as the Chief Engineer to enquire whether he is reliable and all that.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar (*Urakam*).—It is seen that the contract for the fitting of doors and windows is given to the National Furniture Company. Had they a furniture plant in the State before they called for tenders?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon (*Chief Engineer*).—Yes.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar (*Urakam*).—Then why did they call for tenders?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon (*Chief Engineer*).—To see if any favourable rates could be got.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar (*Urakam*).—Since there were others who tendered for amounts less than the estimated rates, why this company was given the contract on the estimated rates?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon (*Chief Engineer*).—Rate is not the only consideration. We have to consider the different tenderers and see they are of approved merits.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar (*Urakam*).—What about this Curzon & Company, Madras. They have quoted separate rates. What about Numberumal Chetty and Sons? What about Mr. C. J. Luiz who has tendered for 10 per cent less?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon (*Chief Engineer*).—Both these companies have quoted higher rates.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar (*Urakam*).—I withdraw that portion of my question.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon (*Chief Engineer*).—I have told you in the remarks here that none of the other people has a fully equipped furniture plant capable of doing the work of the quality we desire for that building.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar (*Urakam*).—This National Furniture Company is not even an approved contractor. There

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

are so many people who have been constructing buildings with doors and windows and they are approved contractors also.

Mr. President.—This is the first time that we are giving a separate contract for doors and windows.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar (*Urakam*).—That is certainly a news to me, Sir, that a person who can construct a building is not able to construct the fittings like doors and windows.

Mr. President.—I have given an explanation.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar (*Urakam*).—That explanation seems to me to be silly.

Mr. President.—I take strong objection to the word 'silly' used by the Hon'ble Member. The Hon'ble Member should withdraw the word 'silly'.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar (*Urakam*).—I withdraw that word.

Mr. President.—He should understand that he wanted to know why the National Furniture Company even though not in the approved list of contractors was given the contract. By approved contractors is meant building contractors and the National Furniture Company are not building contractors. This is the first time we are giving this work separately. Hon'ble Members should know that they must have some restraint on their tongues before using such words.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar (*Urakam*).—I know that.

Mr. President.—You ought not to have used that word if you had exercised proper control.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar (*Urakam*).—Sir, I withdrew the word 'silly' immediately you took objection to it. I withdrew it long before the President made a comment upon it.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (*Wadakkancheri*).—Whether there was any particular reason for giving this particular item of work separately?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon (*Chief Engineer*).—I told you that it was done for expedition, for doing the work as fast as possible.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (*Wadakkancheri*).—What was the exact necessity for expediting the work with a

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

supplementary demand of one lakh of rupees which was asked for the other day?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer).*— Does this question arise, Sir?

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Wadakkancheri).*— In answer to my previous question it has been stated that the new method of giving contracts piecemeal to various persons was taken up with a view to expedite the work. My present question is what was the necessity for expediting the work with an additional grant to the tune of a lakh of rupees after exhausting the 50,000 rupees that was provided in the budget for this year?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer).*— Does that arise, Sir?

Mr. President.—I have not been able to understand the question.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Wadakkancheri).*— I shall make the question understandable. My question is what was the necessity for expediting the work asking for a supplementary grant to the tune of a lakh of rupees after exhausting all the 50,000 rupees that you had budgetted in 1113?

Mr. President.—If you have any answer you may answer.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer).*— I have not understood it.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Wadakkancheri).*— I submit, Sir, that the Hon'ble Member cannot understand the question is no fault of mine. I shall again ask where was the necessity for expediting the work by resorting to this process that is mentioned after exhausting your budgetted amount? What was the urgency, in other words? I think the question is understood now.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer).*— It is a known fact that we want to have the work finished as quickly as possible when once it is started.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Wadakkancheri).*— When you provided for Rs. 50,000 in the budget for 1113 had you any idea of expediting the work in the way in which you are doing this now? You came for an additional allotment.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer).*— The additional allotment was moved and it was passed by the Council.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Wadakkancheri).*— I once again repeat my question?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer).*— The intention of the Government has been sufficiently and satisfactorily explained when I moved the additional grant.

Mr. President.—If you have nothing more to add to what you stated then say that.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer).*— I have nothing more to add to what I have already stated.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—It is stated that Curzon & Co., Madras had given separate rates. Were those rates above the estimated rates or below?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer).*— They were above the estimated rates.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur South).*—May I know when this practice of separating the supply of and fitting up of doors and windows made? Is it of recent origin?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer).*— It was done first for this work. Once before we had done it 10 years ago, when I constructed the primary school building in Ponganam and in another place at Trichur where the doors and windows were supplied by the Tramway Department.

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. കൃഷ്ണൻകുട്ടി *(Anthikad).*— കതകുകളും ജനലുകളും ഫർണ്ണിച്ചറിൽ പെടുമോ?

They are experts for furniture. I want to know whether they furnish doors and windows as furniture?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer).*— The work is very similar.

Mr. V. K. Krishnankutty *(Anthikad).*—Will they supply doors and windows now?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer).*— I think that company supplies doors and windows to order.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly